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LETTER DATED 3 MARCH 1991 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL*

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter addressed to you by Mr. Tariq Aziz, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, dated 3 March 1991.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Abdul-Amir AL-ANBARI
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* An identical letter addressed to the President of the Security Council is contained in document S/22320.

Annex

Letter dated 3 March 1991 from the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to inform you that the Iraqi Government has taken note of the text of Security Council resolution 686 (1991) and that it has agreed to fulfil its obligations under the said resolution. We hope that the Council, in its turn, will interact in an objective and honourable manner, pursuant to the provisions of international law and the principles of equity and justice, with our faithful and - to the extent that we are able - speedy fulfilment of those obligations.

You and the members of the Security Council are well aware of the manner in which the American forces and their partners in the military operations against Iraq have implemented Security Council resolution 678 (1990), and of the major losses which Iraq has suffered to its infrastructure, economic, civilian, cultural and religious property, basic public services such as electricity, water, telephones, transport, fuel and other essential requirements of everyday life.

Despite these facts, resolution 686 (1991) has ignored the Iraqi people's suffering and the imposition on Iraq alone of a long series of obligations. A number of members of the Security Council referred to this fact, leading one of them (Cuba) to vote against the resolution, while three States - India, Yemen and China, the latter being a permanent member of the Council - abstained.

We record these facts for history and for the attention of those members of the Security Council and the international Organization - and those elements of international public opinion - who have a conscience. Our agreement to fulfil our obligations under this resolution stems from our determination to refute the pretexts which some may employ in order to persist in their aggression against Iraq and to inflict further harm on its people.

Iraq hopes that the Security Council will ensure the adoption of a resolution proclaiming an official cease-fire and the cessation of all military operations on land, at sea and in the air, as well as the immediate withdrawal of the foreign military forces stationed without any justification in various regions of Iraq. Iraq also hopes that the Security Council will proceed to declare, with all possible speed, the bases for its adoption of Security Council resolutions 661 (1990), 665 (1990) and 670 (1990) as having lapsed, with the result that the resolutions become null and void.

Accept, Sir, the assurances of my highest consideration.

(Signed) Tariq AZIZ
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Baghdad, 3 March 1991